

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 263098

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S E C R E T GENEVA 7197

EXDIS

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TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VS, SZ, UN

SUBJ: PLANS TO SET UP PRG MISSION IN GENEVA

REFS: A) STATE 261067; B) BERN 4418

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF A, I CALLED ON UN UNDER SECRE-
TARY WINSPEARE TO TELL HIM OF US DEMARCHE TO SYG
WALDHEIM, STRESSING PARTICULARLY OUR INTENTION SECURE
FIRM COMMITMENT FROM SYG THAT UN WOULD TAKE NO ACTION
ANYWHERE TO ENHANCE PRG STATUS WITH UN AGENCIES.
WINSPEARE RESPONDED THAT HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
SWISS RE PRG OFFICE WERE UNDERTAKEN EARLY THIS MONTH
AS A RESULT OF INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE
FROM WALDHEIM, WHO SAID THAT HE HAD INFORMED SECRETARY
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PAGE 02 STATE 263098

KISSINGER OF HIS INTENTIONS IN A CONVERSATION THAT

TOOK PLACE AT ROME AT OPENING OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, AND HAD DECIDED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH EXPLORATIONS LEADING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PRG LIAISON OFFICE FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AT GENEVA. WINSPEARE CONTINUED WITH ACCOUNT HIS SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES SUBSTANTIALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT REPORTED BY BERN (REF B).

2. I ASKED HOW ONE COULD INTERPRET "HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS" IN THIS CONTEXT. WINSPEARE REPLIED THAT THE PROPOSED PRG OFFICE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED SOLELY TO PROVIDE A COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL BETWEEN PRG AND AGENCIES DEALING WITH HUMANITARIAN MATTERS SUCH AS UN HICOM FOR REFUGEES, RED CROSS, WORLD HEALTH, UN DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION. THE NAME OF THE PROPOSED PRG ESTABLISHMENT WOULD, HE UNDERSTOOD, BE "LIAISON OFFICE OF THE PRG TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENEVA" AND THAT THE UN REQUEST TO SWISS AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN OFFICE WOULD SPELL OUT "UNDERSTANDING" OF LIMITED HUMANITARIAN ROLE OF PRG PEOPLE HERE. WINSPEARE ADDED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN "OFFICE" WAS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE SETTING UP OF A "MISSION," AS HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY REQUESTED BY PRG, AND THAT THEY WOULD BE OPERATING WITHOUT DIPLOMATIC RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AND WITH VISAS REVOKABLE AT ANY TIME.

3. I REITERATED WHY WE WERE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THEO ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY PRG OFFICE, BUREAU OR MISSION TO THE UN, AND OBSERVED THAT IT SEEMED NAIVE TO ASSUME THAT, IF A PRG BRIDGEHEAD WERE ESTABLISHED, IT WOULD IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY ENFORCEABLE RESTRAINTS BE EXPECTED TO LIMIT ITS OPERATIONS IN THE MANNER HE DESCRIBED.

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